



STUDY GUIDE June 4, 2023

**Message Series:** SWAG  
**Message Title:** Unity is the Key  
**Teaching Pastor:** Brian Hughes

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:** (10 min).

Share a memorable team experience and why it was memorable. (It can be a sports team, work team, a church team, etc)

**Pray:** Lord, we praise You for Who you are, maker of every living thing and ruler of the universe. You have no beginning and no end. You know every hair on our head and every thought before we even think it. You know all of our failures and shortcomings, yet You love us with an everlasting love. Thank you for Your grace and Your mercy. Help calm our hearts and minds so that we can be open to Your Spirit and Your Word. Guide us into Your truth. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Get Started:** (20 min.)

- Thinking in broad terms about some well-known successes or accomplishments, what comes to mind? What was the role of a team in the success?

*"You don't have to be a religious person to see that humanity was designed to work together. You'd be hard pressed to find anything that has had a lasting impact on the world or made people better that didn't ultimately involve more than a single person to make it happen. The idea may start in one place, but the team makes the idea better and executes to scale."* - Pastor Brian Hughes

**Read Ephesians 4:1-6 and 2 Corinthians 13:11.**

- What is the correlation between unity and peace? What does Paul mean when he says, "keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?"
- Why does he tell us to "keep" the unity rather than create it?

**Read Romans 15:5-6.**

- Based on this scripture, what is the ultimate purpose of unity?

**Watch and Discuss Video** (running time 17 minutes, 20 minute discussion)

Pastor Brian quoted Rick Warren, who said, "Unity is not uniformity."

- Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

Pastor Brian talked about five practical steps for unity:

1. Pick your battles.
  2. Fight for humility - your **own** humility.
  3. Believe the best.
  4. Get behind decisions.
  5. If you need to leave, leave with unity.
- Which one of these comes easiest to you and which one do you think you need to improve on? Why?

**Reflect and Commit:** (20 min.)

*“But the pinnacle of achievement comes from **unity**. Unity is how wars are won, how life altering breakthroughs are found, how marriages achieve greatness and friendships thrive. And unity is how the church changes the world. Unity around what? Around Jesus alone. Not our individual and sometimes flawed interpretations of the Bible - which I’m capable of too. Not our voting preferences or our political bents. Not our style or our personality or our music selection. No, unity comes through diversity, not in its absence. Our unity is a great gift, given to us by God if we would receive it. A unity found completely and totally in our collective, unashamed belief that Jesus Christ is the One True God. And our unity in Him is all we need to win together for the cause of the One we follow.” - Pastor Brian Hughes*

**Read John 17:11 and John 17:20–23.**

- What stands out to you from these verses? How might this apply to your life?
- Think for a moment on the things you’ve discussed about unity - what is one thing that you could do to put what you’ve learned into action?

**Gather prayer requests and pray.** (5-10 min.)

**Pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of unity and the peace that comes with it. Thank You that our unity in You is all we need to win together for the cause of the One we follow. And thank You that when we do our part, You are glorified in every way. Help us to receive this gift and walk in it. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.